

## CLAIMS

- 1 1. A system for replay of a backup memory in a storage system having a file system  
2 for managing transfer of data to and from an attached disk array, the system comprising:  
3 a log in the backup memory containing storage system transaction entries accu-  
4 mulated after a consistency point at which time results of the transaction entries are  
5 committed to the disk array;  
6 an initiator process that establishes a swarm of messages with respect to the trans-  
7 action request entries and delivers the swarm to the file system; and  
8 a disk information-retrieval process in the file system that is carried out on the  
9 swarm of messages in parallel.
- 1 2. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein each of the messages of the swarm is  
2 identified by a transaction block including a pointer to one of the transaction request en-  
3 tries in the log, respectively, and a state that indicates whether each of the messages is  
4 one of (a) newly transferred to the file system, (b) subject to completion of a LOAD  
5 phase thereon by the disk information-retrieval process, (c) subject to completion of a  
6 MODIFY phase thereon by a MODIFY process of the file system or (d) incapable of be-  
7 ing subject to the LOAD phase until a prerequisite event occurs.
- 1 3. The system as set forth in claim 2 wherein the prerequisite event is completion of  
2 the LOAD phase and a MODIFY phase with respect to another of the messages.
- 1 4. The system as set forth in claim 3 wherein the initiator process is adapted to  
2 retransfer each of the messages incapable of being subject to a load phase until the pre-  
3 requisite event occurs to the file system for completion of the LOAD phase after the pre-  
4 requisite event occurs, respectively.
- 1 5. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the initiator is adapted to establish a  
2 skip state with respect to skipped messages for which a portion of the disk array associ-

3 ated therewith is unavailable, the skip state thereby omitting the skipped messages from  
4 the swarm.

1 6. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the file system includes a panic state  
2 adapted to alert an operator if a first message received from the initiator in the swarm is a  
3 message incapable of being subject to a load phase until a prerequisite event occurs.

1 7. The system as set forth in claim 4 wherein the file system includes a panic state  
2 adapted to alert an operator if a message retransferred by the initiator process is a mes-  
3 sage incapable of being subject to a load phase until a prerequisite event occurs.

1 8. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the backup memory comprises a non-  
2 volatile random access memory (NVRAM).

1 9. The system as set forth in claim 1 wherein the storage system comprises a net-  
2 work storage appliance.

1 10. A method for replay of a backup memory in a storage system having a file system  
2 for managing transfer of data to and from an attached disk array, the method comprising:  
3 accumulating, in a log in the backup memory, storage system transaction request  
4 entries after a consistency point at which time results of the transaction request entries are  
5 committed to the disk array;  
6 establishing a swarm of messages with respect to the transaction request entries  
7 and delivering the swarm to the file system; and  
8 performing a disk information-retrieval process of the file system on the swarm of  
9 messages in parallel.

1 11. The method as set forth in claim 10 further comprising establishing, for each of  
2 the messages of the swarm, a transaction block including a pointer to one of the transac-  
3 tion request entries in the log, respectively, and a state that indicates whether each of the  
4 messages is one of (a) newly transferred to the file system, (b) subject to completion of a



5 (b) subject to completion of the LOAD phase thereon by the disk information-retrieval  
6 process, (c) subject to completion of a MODIFY phase thereon by a MODIFY process of  
7 the file system or (d) incapable of being subject to the LOAD phase until a prerequisite  
8 event occurs.

1 17. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 16 wherein the prerequisite  
2 event is completion of the LOAD phase and a MODIFY phase with respect to another of  
3 the messages.

1 18. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 17 further comprising re-  
2 transferring each of the messages incapable of being subject to a load phase until the pre-  
3 requisite event occurs to the file system for completion of the LOAD phase after the pre-  
4 requisite event occurs, respectively.

1 19. The computer-readable medium as set forth in claim 15 wherein the storage sys-  
2 tem comprises a network storage appliance.